GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2524
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
IRREGULARITIES IN ALLOTMENT OF RETAIL OUTLETS
P. RAJENDRAN

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two Judge Committee is looking into the irregularities of allotment of Retail Outlets (RO)/LPG distributorships;

(b) if so, the criteria followed for referring cases to this Committee and the number of cases referred to this Committee;

(c) whether more complaints about irregularities in selection of retail outlets distributorships have been received, for reference to this Committee and the action taken thereon;

(d) the time by which the report of this Committee is likely to be submitted; and

(e) the expenses incurred by the Government/ public sector oil companies on this Committee so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) to (d): The Supreme Court of India vide its judgement, dated 20.12.2002, appointed a Two-Judge Committee, comprising a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India and a retired judge of the High Court of Delhi to examine the cases of selection of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships, which were reported in the media (The Indian Express) during July-August, 2002. The total number of such cases referred by the Supreme Court of India to the said Committee is 414. The Committee is likely to submit its report to the Supreme Court of India within or around the first quarter of the year 2004.

(e): Apart from the engagement of the services of an advocate and a stenographer for assisting the judges, all other secretarial/ infrastructural facilities are provided to the Two-Judge Committee by the public sector Oil Marketing Companies(OMCs). While each of the two judges is being paid at the rate of Rs.10,000/- per sitting, the advocate and the stenographer are being paid at the rate of Rs.25,000/- and Rs.3,000/- respectively per month. The expenditure incurred on this Committee is being borne by the OMCs.